

# Introduction To Colossians

## Colossians 1:1-14

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July 25, 2010

**Teaching Aim:** To introduce the Book of Colossians. To examine the powerful prayer life of the Apostle Paul so that he might become an example for us today. To understand how the special love relationship between the Father and the Son relates our salvation.

### DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD'S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

#### Part I: An introduction of the Book of Colossians (Col. 1:1-2)

1. What four books of the New Testament are called "The Prison Epistles"? (See Study Bible notes) What famous city was Paul under house arrest in as he wrote the book of Colossians? (**See Acts 28:16, 30-31**) What three churches were located there in the Lycus River valley? (**See 4:13**)? As far as we know, did Paul ever visit any of them? (**See Col. 2:1; Phile. 25**)
2. What does it mean to be "an apostle" (vs. 1)? (See Dictionary) What does it mean to be "an apostle of Jesus Christ"? Is there a difference? According to **verse 2**, what is the name of the city that this book was written to?
3. Paul's customary greeting is found in all thirteen of his epistles. Is there any significance to the wording: "*grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ*" (vs. 2)? How does this greeting apply to us today? How? (**See Eph. 1:2; Phil. 2:2; 1 Thess. 1:2; 2 Thess. 1:2, etc**) What is the twofold meaning of grace? (**See Tit. 2:11-14; Phil. 4:19**) What kind of peace is referred to here? (**See Rom. 5:1**)
4. Paul wrote this epistle in response to **the Colossian heresy** which was invading the church. This heresy combined pagan astrology and philosophy with Jewish legalism, asceticism and the worship of angels. All of these elements were blended together into a faulty and heretical Christian message. The Colossian heresy was an early form of Gnosticism believing that a higher secret knowledge of God was necessary for salvation and that Jesus Christ was less than God. To them anything made of matter was evil which led to problems with the person and work of Christ. Why was this heresy such a threat to the Colossian church? Why is heresy (*or false teaching*) a threat to any church today?

## Part II: Examining the prayer life of the Apostle Paul (Col. 1:3-11)

1. What three cardinal virtues of the Christian faith are found in **verses 3-5**? (See **1 Cor. 13:13**; **1 Thess. 1:3**) How do each of these virtues relate to the Christian life? What is the meaning of the word “gospel” (**vs. 5**)? What is the “good news” that everybody in the world needs to hear? (Hint: See **1 Cor. 15:3-4**; **John 3:16**). Discuss how you would share the gospel with others.
2. According to Paul, what was happening all over the known world as a result of the gospel message being faithfully shared (**vs. 6**)? Why do you think we see so little spiritual fruit in our own country today?
3. Who was the probable founder of the Church in Colosse (**vs. 7**)? Epaphras was a biblical hero in many respects. What can we learn about Epaphras from the comments in **verse 7** and **Col. 4:12-13**? What attributes of Epaphras’ spiritual walk would you like to implement in your own life today?
4. “Love in the Holy Spirit” should be the mark of every Christian and every church (**vs. 8**). Why do you think love is such a needed ingredient in any church? How do you feel your church is doing in regards to love for the Lord and love for one-another? What are some ways your church can improve?
5. What can we learn about Paul’s prayer life from **verse 9**? How do we pray without ceasing (**vs. 9**)? Other than Epaphras, what kind of relationship did Paul have with the Church of Colosse? (See **2:1**) Why is it important to constantly remember new believers and young churches in prayer?
6. Define the meaning of the words “knowledge”, “wisdom” and “spiritual understanding” (**vs. 9**)? Is there a difference between the three? If so, how do the three fit together in describing the mature Christian? Why is understanding **verse 9** necessary to understanding **verse 10**?
7. How does God strengthen the believer “with all might, according to His glorious power” (**vs. 11**)? (See **Matt. 7:7-8**; **Phil. 4:13, 19**) Why does the Christian need God’s power to make it through the

everyday difficulties of life? How is it that Christians can have joy even in the midst of life's trials and tribulations?

### **Part III: Understanding the roles of the Father and Son in our salvation (Col. 1:12-14)**

1. Which member of the Trinity qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints according to **verse 12**? What does Paul say our attitude should be in response to this gracious act?
2. According to **verse 13**, which member of the Trinity delivered us from the power of darkness? What kingdom are we rescued from? What kingdom does the Lord transfer us into? According to **2 Cor. 4:3-4**, why do the unbelievers remain blinded? How do these verses affect your view in dealing with unbelieving family members and friends?
3. The MacArthur Study Bible says, "*The Father gave this kingdom to the Son He loves, as an expression of eternal love. That means that every person the Father calls and justifies is a love gift from Him to the Son.*" (See **John 3:35-36; 5:20-21; 6:37-40; 15:9-10; Rom 8:28-30**) How does the Son reciprocate this love gift to the Father in the end? (See **1 Cor. 15:22-28**)
4. According to **verse 14**, what does the believer receive as a result of Christ's substitutional atonement on the cross? What does it mean to be redeemed and how does redemption relate to slavery? What were we slaves of? (See **1 Cor. 15:54-56**) NOTE: Wikipedia has helpful online definitions of theological terms.
5. Why is it important for us to be forgiven of our sins? (See **Ezek. 18:20**) According to **Psa. 103:12**, how far does God remove the sins of those who fear Him? According to the Bible, what is the only way to salvation? (See **John 3:16; 3:35-36; Acts 4:12; Rom. 6:23; 10:9-11**) Have you placed your trust in Jesus Christ yet? If not, why not confess your sins right now asking the Lord for forgiveness and receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord in prayer?

### **MINER'S CORNER – *Manna to live by!***

- \* The gospel message going out God's way will bear much spiritual fruit.
- \* "Love in the Holy Spirit" is the glue that keeps the body of Christ together.
- \* To pray without ceasing means to constantly be in an atmosphere or spirit of prayer, praying as things come to mind.
- \* Knowledge is accumulation of data. Wisdom is being able to take the knowledge you have and apply it with good choices. Spiritual understanding is being able to take the knowledge & wisdom you have applying them together with spiritual understanding to live a godly life.
- \* We are a love gift from the Father to the Son. The Son will reciprocate that love when in the end times He gives the redeemed back to His Father as a love gift.
- \* In Christ our sins are forgiven and removed as far as the east is from the west.